

**REMARKS**

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 6, 2007. Claims 1-31 are pending in the application. Claims 23-32 have been allowed. By the present amendment, claims 1, 8, 13 and 22 have been amended. No new matter has been added. The Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection in view of the amendment and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Specification has been amended to correct grammatical and typographical errors. No new matter has been added.

By the Office Action, claims 1-7, 11, 13-17 and 21-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0187992 to Steenfeldt et al. (hereinafter Steenfeldt).

Steenfeldt is directed to a system and method for managing a plurality of services triggered by a same message or messages. The system applies a set of rules and priorities under different conditions to make sure that a subscriber's intentions are carried out properly. The embodiments described may employ the SIP protocol, but not to provide voice communication capabilities to various software programs. While voice over Internet protocol is mentioned as a potential service, there is no teaching or suggestion that such a service is made available in different software applications to enable voice communications as set forth in present claims 1, 13 and 22, as amended for clarity.

Claim 1, e.g., recites, *inter alia*, a method for enabling voice over Internet for computer applications including ... providing SIP service through an application programming interface (API) to permit access to service functions by individual software applications; providing a SIP link within a software application to permit user invocation of SIP service

functions to enable voice over Internet service within the software application; and passing the link as a parameter to permit external access to an invoked service function to provide voice communication capabilities for the software application.

Steenfeldt does not provide SIP service through an application programming interface (API) to permit access to service functions by individual software applications. The use of the SIP based VOIP, which is made available to individual software applications is not disclosed or suggested in Steenfeldt. Arguably, Steenfeldt may provide a specialized software package for managing SIP communication services, but certainly not in the manner contemplated by the present claims. Instead, services provided by a Telco or service provider are managed in accordance with contractual relationships (see paragraph [100]) at a service provider's machine and do not need to be managed by the subscriber themselves (see e.g., paragraph [0098]). This is further supported by the example given at paragraphs [0182]-[0200], which provides for a plurality of different services under a variety of conditions, rules and contractual relationships. Nowhere in the example or otherwise is a link or other feature provided to add a voice communications feature to a software application disclosed or suggested. For example, Steenfeldt does not provide a link in a software application that can be employed to provide a voice communication capability to any software application of a user.

Further, Steenfeldt fails to disclose or suggest providing a SIP link within a software application to permit user invocation of SIP service functions to enable voice over Internet service within the software application. Steenfeldt further fails to disclose or suggest passing a link as a parameter to permit external access to an invoked service function to provide voice communication capabilities for the software application.

Steenfeldt does not expand the use of VOIP to other software applications.

Instead, Steenfeldt manages a plurality of communication services through a complex set of contractual relationships, rules and conditions. Steenfeldt is silent as to providing a SIP link within a software application to permit user invocation of SIP service functions to enable voice over Internet service within the software application. Steenfeldt does not provide voice communication capability to different software applications as presently claimed. Steenfeldt is silent on passing a link as a parameter to permit external access to an invoked service function to provide voice communication capabilities for the software application.

Therefore, Steenfeldt fails to disclose or suggest at least providing SIP service through an application programming interface (API) to permit access to service functions by individual software applications; providing a SIP link within a software application to permit user invocation of SIP service functions to enable voice over Internet service within the software application; and passing the link as a parameter to permit external access to an invoked service function to provide voice communication capabilities for the software application. Steenfeldt is completely different from the present claims in both structure and motivation. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection be reconsidered and claim 1 be allowed for at least the stated reasons.

Claims 13 and 22 include similar recitations and have been amended in a similar way as claim 1. Therefore, claims 13 and 22 are also believed to be in condition for allowance over Steenfeldt. Dependent claims 2-12 and 14-21 are also believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the stated reasons and due to their dependency from claims 1 and 13, respectively. Reconsideration of the rejection is earnestly solicited.

By the Office Action, claims 8-10 and 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Steenfeldt in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0036482 to Goroshevsky et al. (hereinafter Goroshevsky), and claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Steenfeldt in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,370,137 to Lund (hereinafter Lund).

The Applicant disagrees with these rejections for at least the above stated reasons. Goroshevsky and/or Lund, taken alone or in any combination fail to cure the deficiencies of Steenfeldt as stated. Reconsideration of the rejection is earnestly solicited.

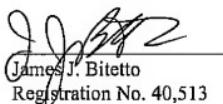
The Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 23-31. However, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the case is respectfully requested.

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are currently due. However, in the event that any additional fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the application, they may be charged to applicant's IBM Deposit Account No. 50-0510.

Respectfully submitted,

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